ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the multitude of persons who indirectly or directly helped me on each step towards the completion of this thesis.

First and foremost, I must acknowledge the efforts of the visionary founder Chairman of the Department of Wildlife Sciences (DWS), Prof. A.H. Musavi for providing a positive platform to my passion for wildlife.

I am thankful to Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, now Director, Bombay Natural History Society and Prof. H. S. A. Yahya, currently on leave for academic pursuit in USA, for providing technical support and excellent research facilities to me at the DWS.

Thanks are due to Mr. Ashok Singh, former CCF of UP, Dr. R. L. Singh, current CCF, UP, the DFO's of Almora, Pithoragarh, Nainital and the staff of the Forest Department for granting me the permission, legal and administrative support in conducting field work in the Kumaon Himalaya.

Mr. Samar Singh, former Secretary General, WWF India. Wildlife Society of India, and the UGC provided me the necessary financial assistance during the study period. The financial assistance on time was the backbone of my research work and had it not been for them, this work would have been just a dream.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. Jamal A. Khan-my teacher and supervisor for his esteemed guidance and support throughout the work.
I thank Mr. Afifullah Khan, Lecturer, DWS and my co-supervisor for his help in field and for providing facilities in the DWS. Thanks are also due to Dr. Satish Kumar for his suggestions during the data analysis.

Dr. Salim Javed, Ornithologist, ERWDA, UAE deserves special words of thanks for his help in data analysis and bearing with me patiently in the capacity of a teacher and a friend during his term as lecturer at DWS.

Prof C. Barrette provided all his literature on barking deer to me. I am extremely grateful to him for his help. I wish to place on record my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Mr. Avenash Datta, former director, WWF-India, for his support, help and guidance throughout my work in Kumaon. Thanks are due to Mr. Parikshit Gautam for providing valuable support during the Binsar work.

Thanks to all the residents of Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary and specially to Ms. Mukti Datta and her parents, Mr. Vivek Datta and Mrs Merry Datta for their much needed help and hospitality. I am thankful to my landlord Mr. And Mrs Pradeep Lal Shah, my neighbours Anjali, Nyima, Marten, Mr. Gopal Bisht, Manager, Tourist Reception Centre and locals such as Pitamber Pandit, Radha, Deewan da and his family, Pankaj and forest guard Ganga Singh. Special thank goes to Mr. Rajan, Postman of the Binsar for being always ready for all possible help.

Ambu, Anand and Poonam have been very loyal and efficient while assisting me in field. I wish Poonam was alive today to see the fruits of her contribution in this thesis. May her soul rest in peace.
Thanks are due to my friends and colleagues Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad, Corbett Foundation, Ramnagar, Shah and Aisha for help in field. Thanks are also due Junaid, Shahid, Khurshid, Sangeeta, Neelam, Asghar, Zakir, Reyaz and Tanveer at DWS, and Damyanti, Hina, Sabiha and Tarannum at my hostel in AMU for providing congenial environment and support during the data analysis and thesis writing.

Special thanks are due to my friends Faiza Abbasi and Tahmina Shafiq for their immense help in preparation of this thesis and also for their moral support during the time of depression. I thank Mr. Parwez, my friend for encouragement throughout the preparation of this thesis.

I am grateful to the staff of the DWS particularly Mrs. Nasreen Husain, Librarian, Mr. Moonis, Mrs. Anjum and Mr. Masroor for their help. Mr. Ram Gopal, Umar, Chotey Khan, Tanveer, Ghaffar and Jaseem have provided worthy help during the preparation of this thesis.

I acknowledge the valuable suggestion of Mr. D.C. Kala, while conducting the field work. I collected essential information about the Kumaon region by consulting the library of G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Research and Development, Kosi, Almora. I am extremely thankful to Dr. Palni, Director, GBPIE&D for his kind permission to use the library and laboratory. The lab work would have been difficult without the help and guidance of Dr. Shubhrat Sharma and Dr. Nadeem of the Institute. Special thanks are due to Dr. S. S. Samant for his help in plant identification.
Thank are also due to Mr. S. K. Mukherjee, Director Wildlife Institute of India for giving me the permission to consult the library. Thanks are also due to Mr. Rana, Librarian, WII for his help. I am also thankful to Dr. G. S. Rawat for enhancing my knowledge about the plants of Kumaon.

Back at AMU too, I am thankful to Prof. Samiullah, Chairman, Department of Botany who graciously provided his kind permission and help for carrying out the lab work at his laboratory in the department. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Masroor for helping me in the laboratory work in physiology lab of the Botany department. Dr. Hayat, Mr. Zaki and the other researchers in Botany Department were very co-operative during the lab work and they all deserve an honest word of gratitude. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Athar A. Khan, Lecturer, Department of Botany. I thank the librarian of the Botany Department for providing me all possible support. Thank is also due to Dr. Yasmeen, RA of the Botany Department.

My sincere thanks go to Prof. Yaseen Ansari, former Dean and Principal of the Engineering college, AMU, Aligarh for his encouragement and moral boost up.

My sincere thanks to Prof. S. P. Gupta, Chairman, Department of History for giving me permission to consult the library. I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Farhat Hasan, Reader, Department of History for providing me literature on the history and background of the Kumaon Himalaya.

All said and done I arrive at a certain stage of acknowledging efforts which wells up my eyes because no combination of any of the 26 letters can justify
what my parents have put in to bring me up to the threshold of a Doctoral degree. A small bunch of people whom we lovingly called family has also been with me through thick and thin. I am fortunate to have unconditional support and encouragement from my sisters Dr. Frah, Dr. Hamrah, Ms. Mobushshera and Ms Iram; my brothers in law Prof. Ashhar and Mr. Zia Siddiqui and my niece and nephews Abdullah, Nida, Asma, Ibtisam, Arsalan. I know completion of this thesis will bring a glitter of pride in their eyes and make my father smile at me from his abode in heaven.